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Leaflet
SPECIALTIES:
VINIFERA GRAPES
SOUTH CHINA PEACHES
ORCHID CANNAS

LA GRANJA

(IRRIGATED FARM)
ELTWEED POMEROY

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
★ JUL 29 1920 ★
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Donna, Texas, September 10, 1912.

Dear Sir:

The coming winter will see large fruit acreages planted in the Valley particularly of grapes which promise to be very profitable if properly cared for.

I have between four and five thousand grape vines growing from cuttings and will keep two thousand for myself and sell the rest. These have been summer pruned to one cane 4 feet high and trained for a trellis. They are the only block of vines grown in the Valley and the only vines in the State trained for a trellis which has been shown to be the only method of growing grapes in this Valley to get the maximum yield. If properly transplanted next February, put at once on a trellis and properly cared for you may get a few bunches next June but will be sure of a crop in June, 1914. In certain, early and abundant production, they are easily worth ten times what any other vines are worth. I am so confident of this, that I intend to plant fifty or sixty thousand cuttings next winter and cultivate and trellis-train them in the same manner. A quarter of these now growing are already sold; if you want any, it is wise to engage them at once. Every vine and cutting on La Granja is mapped and recorded so that cuttings and vines will be true to name. Without this you cannot be sure of your varieties.

PRICES

1st--By the Acre

For \$100 per acre, payable a quarter on order, a quarter on Dec. 1st and a half on delivery of vines, I will go to the land you want to plant, examine its soil and the lay of the land and make you a written report on it; if a contour map is furnished, I will lay out the ditches and where the grape rows should go, will give you written directions as to preparing soil, furnish the vines with directions as to planting, making trellis and care for first year and with them, will furnish 200 cuttings Tamarix Plumosa and 25 banana suckers per acre to plant as wind-breaks.

2nd--Per Vine, Valley Grown

As long as they last, I will sell you the vines I have grown here for 20 cents each or \$15 per 100, payable half on order and half when vines are delivered.

3rd--Per Vine, Californian

These I will deliver in February at 15c each or \$10 per 100 payable half with order and balance on delivery of vines. These orders must be in by Dec. 1st as it takes a month or more to get them here.

4th--Per Cutting

Cuttings will often grow well. After I have secured sufficient cuttings from my own vineyard for my own planting, I will sell the balance for 5c each, 30c per dozen, \$2 per 100 and \$15 per 1000, all payable half with order and half on delivery. I have had from nothing to 98 per cent of cuttings grow. I advise the planting of vines.

5th, Grafted Vines

Those who are fearful of the root rot or phylloxera, can get Vinifera grapes grafted on native resistant roots from my friend, Mr. J. H. Arbenz of Sarita for 50c each, \$4 per 10 or \$35 per 100.

6th, Munson's Grapes

Some few of the wonderful variety of grapes

created by Mr. Munson by crossing vinifera grapes with the native grapes, can be successfully grown here and will probably be resistant to both root rot and phylloxera should the latter ever get in. In some long talks with Mr. Munson, an examination and tasting of the grapes and some correspondence, we have picked out the eight of his varieties which in Mr. Munson's and my judgment are specially suited to the Valley and are fine and commercial varieties. They are not cheap but they are fine. Until thoroly tested out, I do not advise large planting but I do advise a few to test and furnish cuttings and grow them yourself if good. These are his newest and finest varieties—he has others which are cheaper—the price on these is \$1 a vine or \$10 per dozen.

Expert Service

I have given much time, thought and money to the study of Valley conditions and what will grow here. For those who desire my services in planning their grounds, my charge is \$25 a day or I will make it by the job at a price to be agreed on. Such service will save its recipient experiments, money and time to many times the amount paid me.

Nursery Stock

I have the agency this year as I have had it for the last two years for the Fresno and Fancher Creek Nurseries of California, the Glen St. Mary Nurseries of Florida and in addition, I shall have many things from Reasoner Brothers, Oneco, Florida, Griffing Brothers of Florida and McAllen, Otto Locke of New Braunfels, Texas, the Japanese Nursery of Alvin, the Sarita Farm & Nursery Co. and others. My new canna catalog will be out about Oct. 1st with over 40 varieties of cannas listed in it and all valley grown.

Other Leaflets

Later other leaflets on roses and other flowers for the Valley, fruit trees, shade and wind-break trees, vines, etc. will be issued. Farmers wishing copies of these, can secure them by dropping me a postal.

Yours to make the Valley beautiful,

ELTWEED POMEROY.

Kinds of Vineyards

There are two kinds of vineyards. The home vineyard of small size should have a number of varieties of grapes ripening over a considerable period and at least some varieties should be those which bear a second crop. Many varieties can be planted for home use which are not good shippers but whose flavor is delicious.

The second is the commercial vineyard and its planting should be of two and not more than three varieties so as to have sufficient to make good-sized shipments and these varieties should be the same as are planted in that neighborhood so as to combine shipments; also they should be handsome grapes and good shippers even at the expense of flavor as a grape which reaches the market in poor condition, will not sell and those which are handsome, sell much better than less beautiful fruit which may have a finer flavor.

Because the grape business in the Valley is new, attached to every commercial vineyard should be an experimental patch so that finer varieties may be used for new planting and re-planting thus saving the high price always asked for new and finer varieties. For a long time, such new varieties will have a good local sale.

Varieties of Grapes

This list is not comprehensive—I have nearly 100 varieties now growing at La Granja. It is entirely of commercial varieties tho these are also good for the home vineyard and I have placed them in the order of their value commercially but recognize that further experience may change this order markedly. Descriptions are taken from books on grapes.

Black Hamburgh

Vine easily rooted, a strong grower. Bunches large, heavily shouldered, thick set with berries. Berry large, round, thick skin, deep purple black, flesh sweet and juicy. An immense bearer and a good shipper. In 1912 ripened June 20-30. I have put this first despite the berries are close set on the bunch which is a bad quality, because of its other good qualities and the Texas market which will easily absorb all the grapes the Valley can raise for ten years, likes a black grape.

Flame Tokay

Vine easily rooted, a strong grower and large in all proportions. Bunches very large sometimes weighing 8 to 9 lbs., moderately compact, shouldered. Berry very large, oblong, pale red with bloom. Flesh firm, sweet, meaty. A heavy bearer and a good shipper. Ripened in 1912 July 5-15 and kept good on vine till Aug. 10. There are more Tokays planted in California than any other variety and I would put this first if I was sure it would color up well in our valley soils; I think it will but need another season to be sure; some of mine did color well, some did not but at the time we can ship them, these which did not color well will bring a good price.

Malaga

Vine easily rooted, a strong grower, an immense bearer and thrives in any soil. Bunches very large, loose, shouldered, and long. Berry large oval, yellowish green with white bloom, skin thick and fleshy. Flesh firm, sweet and meaty. A good shipper. Ripened June 25—July 10 in 12. Produces a second crop.

Muscat

Vine rather straggling and bushy; laterals produce a second and even a third crop. Bunch long, loose and shouldered and apt to be poorly filled out. Berry oblong, large, yellowish green and transparent, with white bloom. Flesh meaty, firm, very sweet with a musky flavor which to my mind, is the finest of any grown; when the flavor is once known it will outsell any other grape but often a very irregular bearer. Makes fine raisins. The Muscatel is a variety with much smaller berries.

Gros Colman

Vine a strong grower. Bunches large, short, loose and apt not to be well filled. Berries the largest of any grapes grown, as large as Damson plums, round, dark blue with thick but tender skin and bloom. Flesh firm with pleasant vinous flavor. It is different but I place its flavor next to the Muscat. Ripens in July and continues setting on till frost. Keeps well, is a fine shipper and with its large size and beauty of berry and flavor, should be a fine commercial grape.

Among the varieties worth trying out are DAT-TIER DE BEYROUT, an immense white grape of fine flavor and good shipping qualities and a strong grower and immense bearer; ALMERIA which is the grape imported from Spain in cork dust and wrongly called Malaga; BLACK CORNICHON which is a long, olive-shaped black grape with a fine vinous flavor and ripening late, BLACK MORROCCO, a large, late ripening, very sweet and juicy grape, EMPEROR, a large, oblong, rose-colored late ripening grape of fine flavor and shipping qualities; the MUSCAT ROSE, a large dark grape with fine flavor; the MUSCAT HAMBURG, a large black grape with Muscat flavor; the PURPLE DAMASCUS, a very large, oblong, dark blue grape with fine flavor and good shipping qualities; the SABAL KANSKI from Russia which is a copper-red in color with immense bunches and said to be superior to the Flame Tokay and others.

The Munson Grapes

The nine varieties selected from Mr. Munson's Hybrid grapes are as below. The dates of ripening are for Dennison, on the northern boundary of Texas and they will probably ripen here from a month to two months earlier and closer together but the selection is made with a view to the home market to have them ripen as long as possible.

July 1-10—PRESIDENT. This is a very large, black grape tasting and looking like the finest Concord. Mr. Munson says it will grow and fruit here but will probably die in 10 or 12 years.

July 10-20—Captivator. This is the most beautiful copper-red grape I have ever seen. Good shipper.

July 20-30—HERNITO. This is very much the same as President.

Aug. 20-30—ELLEN SCOTT. A most beautiful violet grape of fine flavor and fine shipping qualities; if it succeeds here, will be widely grown.

Aug. 20-30—RONALDO. A cross with the Malaga which its fruit resembles in color, size and flavor. Fine in quality and in shipping.

September—FERN MUNSON. A fine dark red grape which will hang on the vine a long time. LAST ROSE—A very rich, rosy red grape and the latest in ripening of his grapes.